

Lobos 'amaze' coach with fourth straight win

United Press International

Among the pressing concerns of college football coaches, Joe Lee Dunn's probably don't rank very high at the moment.

Dunn, whose New Mexico squad collected its fourth win Saturday in as many starts this year, complained that the Lobos "still don't have the consistency we need."

"We played good in spurts," he said following the Lobos' 34-7 win at Texas-El Paso in New Mexico's Western Athletic Conference opener. The defense, he said, "played pretty good, but we're still making mistakes."

"I'm amazed how we can win every week and still be disappointed in certain aspects of our play," he said.

Watching the Lobos stretch their winning streak to a school-record seven games, and keeping an eye on the scoreboard, one would have supposed Dunn had precious little to worry about.

New Mexico's William Turrall ran for two touchdowns and Ken Whitehead caught passes for two more to beat Texas-El Paso, now 0-2 in the WAC and 1-3 overall. With the win, New Mexico joined Wyoming and Brigham Young as the league's only undefeated teams. Texas-El Paso remained in the WAC cellar.

Brigham Young, 1-0 in the league and 4-0 on the year, was idle during the weekend. Wyoming defeated visiting Utah 21-14 to improve its conference mark to 2-0. The Cowboys are 3-2 overall.

Free safety Pete Benedetti saved the day for Wyoming, intercepting an errant Utah pitchout at the Wyoming 2 and running it back 98 yards for a touchdown to break a 14-14 tie, with just 2:17 left to play. Utah dropped to 2-3 on the season and 1-1 in the WAC, tied for fourth in league standings. The Utes previously were undefeated in conference play.

"I think it's the best win we've had since I've been here," said Wyoming

coach Al Kincaid. "Somehow, somehow, we found a way to (win)."

"Defensively, we had two missed assignments in the second quarter and they went 67 yards for a score," he said. "After that, they only scored one touchdown."

"We had a chance, even at the end," said Utah coach Chuck Stobart. "We made some good plays in the game, and some that came up short."

Air Force pounded visiting Colorado State 52-10 in another WAC game, moving from fifth place in the league into a tie for fourth. The Rams, tied for first last week, moved into fourth place with Air Force and Utah.

Backup quarterback Bart Weiss guided Air Force to a 24-0 halftime lead in Saturday's game and running back Jody Simmons scrambled for two touchdowns to crush the error-prone Rams, who committed five first-half turnovers. Seventeen of Air Force's first-half points were the result of Ram miscues.

"First of all, I'd like to compliment Air Force," said CSU coach Leon Fuller, who suffered his worst defeat since taking the job three years ago.

"As far as our players," Fuller said, "I guess this is the most embarrassing situation I can recall as far as our football team is concerned."

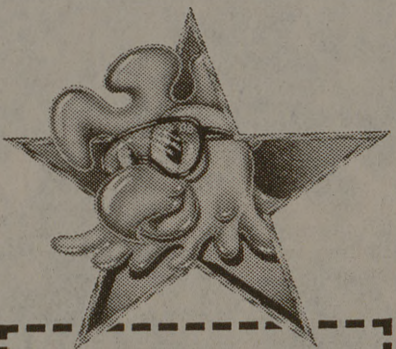
The win lifted Air Force to 2-2 in the league and 3-2 overall, while the Rams fell to 1-1 in conference play and 1-3 on the year.

Hawaii downed Nevada-Las Vegas 16-12 in a non-conference game. Richard Spelman booted three field goals, Raphael Cherry ran 3 yards for a touchdown and defensive back Kurt Kafentzis intercepted two passes in Hawaii territory to pace the Rainbows.

The win was the first of the season for Hawaii after three straight defeats. The Rainbows are 0-2 in league play.

San Diego State was idle during the weekend.

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Oklahoma State lives on Tulsa time

United Press International

TULSA, Okla. — Victory has been determined or preserved in the closing minutes in recent Oklahoma State-Tulsa games, but the 11th-ranked Cowboys abandoned that strategy Saturday night and chose instead to dominate from the beginning.

The first touchdown was scored just five minutes into the game when quarterback Rusty Hilger threw to Thurman Thomas, who in turn passed to Jamie Harris in the end zone.

Tailback Shawn Jones scored a pair of touchdowns, on an 18-yard run in the first quarter and a 5-yard run in the fourth period, and later received the game ball from coach Pat Jones.

Thomas scored on a 2-yard plunge in the second quarter to give the Cowboys a 21-0 halftime lead and Larry Roach kicked a 39-yard field goal in the final period.

"I'm very proud of this squad," Jones said. "Tulsa has a fine football team and 31-7 is a sound whipping. I gave the game ball to Shawn because he took a lot of abuse last week — a lot of it from me — but he played

awfully hard and awfully well."

Tulsa Coach John Cooper, who has coached six straight winning seasons and earned four consecutive Missouri Valley Conference championships, was "not happy at all" with the way his team played.

"We did not execute well offensively or defensively," Cooper said. "Offensively we thought we could go wide on them, but our bad plays killed us. We're not doing the basics. We'll have to work hard on those."

Tulsa's only touchdown came in the third quarter, on a 1-yard plunge by Gordon Brown to cap a 12-play drive that covered 66 yards.

Oklahoma State puts its 4-0 record on the line this week against the Nebraska Cornhuskers, who were upset 19-7 by unheralded Syracuse Saturday, while Tulsa returns to conference action playing West Texas State.

Cooper has managed to retain his optimism despite losing three in a row to non-conference opponents after defeating defendit NCAA 1-AA champion Southern Illinois.

"We've had a slow start, but we will bounce back," he said. "No doubt about it."

Wichita State recalls 1970 airplane crash

United Press International

WICHITA, Kan. — Fourteen years ago, the Wichita State football team was similar to the one of today, struggling for recognition and victories.

On Oct. 2, 1970, the attention finally came, but for the wrong reason. And today former player Randy Jackson remembers vividly how an airplane carrying the Shocker football team slammed into the side of a mountain near Silver Plume, Colo., killing 31 players, coaches, fans and school officials. Fourteen of the players killed were on the first team offensive or defensive units.

The deaths shocked the nation's athletic world, but the Wichita State program didn't fold. After losing its first three games of the 1970 season and coach Bob Wilson in the crash, Wichita began what was called its second season under Bob Seaman, Wilson's assistant.

With mostly underclassmen playing, the Shockers finished the season with an 0-9 record.

"I can remember it like it was yesterday," said Jackson, then a star running back and now a junior high school coach in Wichita. "Don't ask me why, but it all seems so fresh in my mind."

It was only by a stroke of luck that Jackson and seven others survived the crash. A second plane carrying WSU players and followers arrived safely in Logan, Utah, where Wi-

chita was scheduled to play Utah State.

"All we could do when the plane went down was hold on," said Jackson. "I knew there was nothing I could do. After we hit the ground, all I remember is how the plane looked like an old building full of cobwebs. I knew I had to get out of there."

Jackson said he slowly pulled himself through an opening in the rear of the plane and huddled with other survivors. With teammates crying for help, Jackson said, it was agreed the survivors should go for help.

"It's a sick feeling to leave friends dying, but we knew there was fire and fuel around. As we made our way down the mountain, we heard a couple of explosions. There was nothing we could do because no one was around. It was a remote area."

"I think more about what happened when the date it happened on comes around," said George Whitfield, who was on the second plane. "It was really a sad thing. It scares me even now because I could have easily been on the plane that crashed."

It was a team policy then that first team players travel on one plane and others on a second aircraft.

Whitfield was a first-team player, but because teammate Keith Morrison was a senior, that took precedence.

"I was lucky, real lucky," said Whitfield.

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